



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2012

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Illinois Adds 142,100 Private Sector Jobs Since Recovery

Unemployment Drops to 8.8 Percent, Seventh Consecutive Decline

CHICAGO – Illinois added +9,100 jobs in March and the unemployment rate fell for the seventh consecutive month to reach 8.8 percent, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The data is seasonally adjusted. The last time the rate was below 8.8 percent was February 2009 when it was 8.5 percent.

“The monthly snapshot of job growth and lower unemployment adds to the overall trend of an improving Illinois economy,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “This positive momentum should continue despite the likelihood that uneven job growth might prevent the unemployment rate from falling as quickly as we would like.”

Illinois added +142,100 private sector jobs since January 2010 when job growth returned to Illinois. Since January 2010, leading growth sectors are Professional and Business Services (+75,900); Manufacturing (+33,800); Educational and Health Services (+29,700); and Leisure and Hospitality (+18,700). Government has lost the most jobs since January 2010, down -25,700.

Historically, the national unemployment rate is lower than the state rate. Only six times since January 2000 has the Illinois rate been lower than the nation’s. That period includes times of economic expansion and contraction. In March 2012, the number of unemployed individuals fell for the seventh consecutive month, decreasing -17,200 (-2.9 percent) to 581,200. Total unemployed has declined -171,600 (-22.8 percent) since January 2010 when the state unemployment rate peaked at 11.4 percent. The rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

The IDES supports economic stability by administering unemployment benefits, collecting business contributions to fund those benefits, connecting employers with qualified job seekers, and providing economic information to assist career planning and economic development. It does so through more than 45 offices, including Illinois workNet centers.

Please note that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics requires revisions to monthly employment and labor force data. The revisions occur each February based upon updated Census data, unemployment insurance inputs and seasonal factors. Data and analysis distributed prior to March 1, 2012 should be discarded.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	March 2012	February 2012	March 2011	3-Month Moving Avg.
Illinois	8.8%	9.1%	9.3%*	9.1%
U.S.	8.2%	8.3%	8.9%*	8.3%
* Revised				

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Non-farm Jobs – by Major Industry

Industry Title	March 2012*	February 2012**	March 2011**	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change	3-Month Moving Avg.	Change from Previous 3-Month Mov. Avg.
Total Non-farm	5,698,000	5,688,900	5,666,300	9,100	31,700	5,688,900	7,300
Mining	9,800	9,600	9,400	200	400	9,700	0
Construction	191,100	196,100	200,600	-5,000	-9,500	192,300	-100
Manufacturing	587,400	582,200	572,100	5,200	15,300	583,100	3,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,133,800	1,136,100	1,139,500	-2,300	-5,700	1,136,600	-2,800
Information	100,300	98,400	100,500	1,900	-200	99,500	200
Financial Activities	363,700	364,800	363,200	-1,100	500	364,000	1,000
Professional and Business Services	855,700	847,600	825,100	8,100	30,600	849,600	5,700
Educational and Health Services	851,300	852,800	846,500	-1,500	4,800	851,800	-2,000
Leisure and Hospitality	530,600	525,100	520,400	5,500	10,200	526,300	3,600
Other Services	244,500	246,600	249,600	-2,100	-5,100	245,900	-1,000
Government	829,800	829,600	839,400	200	-9,600	830,100	-900
				* Preliminary	** Revised		

Notes:

- Illinois monthly labor force, unemployed and unemployment rates for years 2007-2011 have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In February of each year, monthly labor force data for all states are revised to reflect updated Census population controls, seasonal factors, non-farm jobs and unemployment insurance claims inputs. Data were smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly household (CPS) survey. Comments and tables distributed in prior Illinois unemployment rate news release materials should be discarded because any analysis, including records, previously cited might no longer be valid.
- Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available. For not seasonally adjusted jobs data with greater industry detail, go to http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Custom/Library/Statistic/CES/1_NSA_CES_Illinois_MSAs_Jobs_2000_to_Current.XLS.
- "Other Services" includes a wide range of activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division are available at: <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=2509>.

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